

cannot yet say positively that a specific cause, if followed by a specific effect to-day, will, if in operation to-morrow, produce a like result. Mathematical certainty belongs not to Medicine.—No system of human reasoning can make it so.

Its very uncertainty adds continual interest to the science, and points the difference between the skillful practitioner and the boasting empiric. In many respects, like other physical sciences and phenomena around us, it requires a superior power to man to enable us to know the causes of her labarynthian ways. Their nature lies beyond the depths of man's philosophy. Man, aided alone by human intelligence, gropes in darkness at best. An All-wise Creator has given us the capacity of speculating upon the causes of effects and of phenomena occurring around us, but the real and absolute knowledge of the causes themselves lie too deeply fathomed in His own bosom for man to reach.

“There are more things in Heaven and Earth, Horatio,  
Than are dreamt of in your philosophy.”

With these few general remarks we proceed to the subject of our discourse: we mean MALARIA. It has ever presented an extensive field of research and speculation. We have not the presumption to suppose that we have the experience or the ability to add anything of interest to a theme so hackneyed, or that our observations will have any influence, any farther than the reasoning and argument which they legitimately convey. Few subjects in medicine have received more attention, or have been more frequently and ably discussed and investigated. Discussion has assumed a wide range, and the subject appears inexhaustible. Its importance is universally acknowledged, and in our own Southern country, is paramount. Intermittent and Remittent fevers make up a large part of the practice of Southern Physicians.—Much of the practice of the members of this Society consists of the so-called Malarious fevers. And as the consideration of the nature and causes of disease peculiar to our several localities is one of the purposes for which our Association has been formed, we trust that no excuse or apology is needed from us for venturing to lay before you what we now propose to say on the origin of these fevers. If it serves no other good, it may stimulate in some degree some of the veterans in the profession, whom we have now the honor of addressing, to give us some of the rich treasures